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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Irkutsk Oblast)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Construction on the Eastern Part of the BAM Railroad	DATE DISTR.	21 July 1954
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	2
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
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- Source learned that the BAM railroad line, running from Lake Baykal to the Amur River, originated in Tayshet on the Trans-Siberian railroad line. According to the local population, the new line was to bypass Lake Baykal to the north and then run to Khabarovsk. Work on the construction of this line had allegedly been started in 1946 or 1947; its completion date was to be 1953. a total of 750,000 Soviet forced laborers, in addition to PWs, were employed on the project. Each camp quartered 200 to 300 prisoners, who were assigned construction work on stretches of three to five kilometers of railroad line.
- Progress was slow because of unfavorable climatic conditions. The embankment of the line was built for two tracks; however, only one track was being laid. Ties utilized were new, while some of the rails laid were used. Steam locomotives operated on the section of the line which had been completed. No preparation for an eventual electrification of the line was observed. The subgrade was not very solid; rails were laid on sand ballast or on a rather thin broken stone ballast. Construction work on railroad stations was not observed. The only settlements known to exist on the newly constructed line were in Tayshet and Zayarsk. Passing sidings were built every 50 kilometers. No signal installations or other technical railroad facilities were under construction. The terrain through which the line runs is intercepted by many ravines, necessitating the construction of many bridges. a large bridge over a river had been completed near Zayarsk.

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- Comment: This bridge probably crosses the Angara River near Bratsk.

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